



Salmon-Challis National Forest

Fire Update

Monday, September 19, 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: Members of the Phoenix National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) team will be leaving tomorrow. The team was brought in on August 24 to assist with managing numerous fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. In response to the increased complexities of the Salt Fire the NIMO transitioned into command in conjunction with the existing Type 2 management team on August 29. Their last day on the Salt Fire was Saturday, September 17.

The reduced area closure enacted around the Salt Fire on Friday morning opened areas west of Panther Creek to the public. In addition, the Lemhi County Sheriff has removed the Stage 1 evacuation alert for the Panther Creek drainage. The area closures around the Saddle Complex, Ship Island and Alpine, and Velvet Fires remain the same.

The **Velvet Fire** is still 2,850 acres and saw very little activity over the weekend. A recon flight is scheduled for this morning to view the fire.

SALT FIRE: Activity on the Salt Fire through the weekend was limited to creeping and smoldering. Crews continue to work on rehabilitating and repairing the fireline. Fire suppression repair consists of a series of post-fire actions taken to prevent erosion and minimize other environmental impacts resulting from fire suppression activities. This work begins to restore hand and dozer firelines, roads, trails and support areas used during fire suppression efforts.

Resources: 4 Crews; 2 Helicopters; 7 Engines; 1 Dozer; 5 Water Tenders; 265 Total Personnel
Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 20,418 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: Cooler temperatures and higher humidity have kept fire activity to a minimum. Crews are taking advantage of the lull in fire activity to begin repair efforts and prepare for potential increased fire activity with the predicted higher temperatures mid-week.

On the Montana side of the fire, a Type 3 Incident Commander is taking over this morning. The Type 2 Incident Management Team transitioned off the fire yesterday afternoon. The Bitterroot National Forest continues to manage the Montana side of the fire separately but in communication with the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Resources: 2 Crews; 2 Engines; 64 Total Personnel
Start Date: 18 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 32,365 acres (Idaho: 16,709)

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: Due to decreased fire activity as a result of recent precipitation accompanied by cooler temperatures, the crew which demobilized from the Ship Island Fire will not be replaced. The fire will continue to be monitored from the air by local fire managers and by nearby lookouts. At this time the area closure will remain in effect at least through the predicted warming trend. The **Alpine Fire** remains at 20 acres.

Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 2,301 acres

To learn more about how to better prepare your home to withstand a wildfire, go to www.idahofirewise.org.
For more information on closures and fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, visit www.inciweb.org/unit/46.